

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DEFINITION AND PRINCIPLES

## ABOUT

Family engagement has been an integral component of Michigan's Top 10 in 10 goals, the Michigan ESSA Plan, and various other initiatives such as the Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS). As the department prioritizes supporting families as partners in their child's education, a definition and supportive principles needed to be crafted. Through the development of a Statewide Family Engagement Steering Committee with regular meetings, a series of statewide family engagement focus groups, and feedback surveys, the family engagement definition, principles, and graphic were developed.

## DEFINITION

Family engagement is a collaborative relationship between families, educators, providers, and partners to support and improve the learning, development, and health of every learner.

## MDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) believes families are valuable partners in promoting student outcomes. The MDE Family Engagement Framework supports families and their children throughout the P-20 system. Promoting a shared definition and principles for family engagement supports programs and schools in prioritizing family engagement. Family engagement principles have been developed from research and stakeholder feedback and are aligned with MDE priorities and initiatives, as well as national standards for promoting educational outcomes. The family engagement principles include:

1. Trusting relationships are the cornerstone of family engagement.
2. Families are engaged and supported partners in their child's education.
3. Family engagement efforts are purposeful, intentional, and clearly identify learner outcomes.
4. Family engagement efforts are tailored to address all families so all learners are successful.
5. Positive learning environments contribute to engagement and learning.

